

Appl. No. 09/800,645
Amdt. dated January 31, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2004

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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:	Troy Michael Runge et al.	Docket	18,670
Serial No.:	09/800,645	T.C./A.U.:	1731
Confirmation No:	5221	Examiner:	M. Halpern
Filed:	March 7, 2001	Date:	January 31, 2005
For:	METHOD FOR APPLYING CHEMICAL ADDITIVES TO PULP DURING THE PULP PROCESSING AND PRODUCTS MADE BY SAID METHOD		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 1, 2004, Applicants offer the following remarks to overcome the grounds for rejection.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-19, 22-33 and 35-79 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-19, 22-23, 25, 27-33 and 77-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 3,819,470 to Shaw. Shaw discloses a method for modifying fibers by treating an aqueous slurry of the fibers with a substantive polymeric compound, drying the treated fibers and refiberizing the treated fibers in water. (See col. 1, lines 13-19; col. 2, lines 53-58; and col. 3, lines 1-6). However, contrary to the asserted grounds for rejection, Shaw does not disclose treating a dried web with a chemical as set forth in step (d) of Applicants' claim 1, for example. Instead, Shaw discloses treating an aqueous slurry of fibers. This is a significant difference, because Applicants' claimed method does not require the treatment chemical to be a "substantive" compound. It does not require the treatment chemical to be oppositely charged to the fiber surface

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to promote retention, and it can provide for the retention of higher amounts of some chemicals.
Accordingly, Shaw does not anticipate the rejected claims.

Dependent claims 3, 6, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Shaw in view of U.S. 3,556,931 to Champaigne. However, as discussed above, Shaw does not teach or suggest chemically treating a dried web as set forth in the relevant independent claims (1 and 22). Accordingly, providing a z-direction gradient in the dried web is not made obvious by the combined teachings of Shaw and Champaigne.

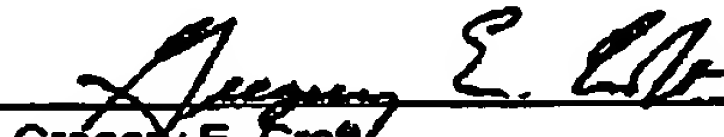
Therefore it is believed that this application is allowable, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc.
deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-3616.

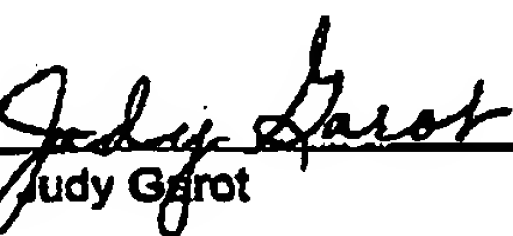
Respectfully submitted,

TROY MICHAEL RUNGE ET AL.

By: 
Gregory E. Croft
Registration No.: 27,542
Attorney for Applicant(s)

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL

I, Judy Garot, hereby certify that on January 31, 2005 this document is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents via facsimile no. (703) 872-9306.

By: 
Judy Garot